

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144227
ORIGIN FAA-00

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P 212204Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ME

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE AEROMEXICO SECURITY VIOLATIONS

1. THE FAA HAS SENT THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM TO THE
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF AEROMEXICO (AM) AND TO AM'S OPERATIONS
MANAGER AND HEAD OF SAFETY DEPARTMENT:

" DURING THE RECENT VISIT OF A U.S. FEDERAL AVIATION
SECURITY OFFICIAL TO MEXICO, IT WAS OBSERVED THAT NO
SECURITY SCREENING OF PASSENGERS WAS CONDUCTED BY
AEROMEXICO (AM) AT THREE LOCATIONS ON THREE DIFFERENT
DATES:

ON MAY 23, 1977, AT MONTERREY, MEXICO, AM WAS OBSERVED
TO BOARD 54 PASSENGERS ON AM FLIGHT 440, MONTERREY TO
HOUSTON, TEXAS, WITHOUT SECURITY SCREENING. THE MATTER
WAS DISCUSSED WITH AM MANAGER SR. ARCADIO ORTA, WHO
ADVISED THAT THE ASSIGNED SECURITY EMPLOYEE HAD FAILED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 144227

TO REPORT FOR WORK AND NO PROCEDURES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED
TO CONDUCT A SECURITY SCREENING IN HIS ABSENCE. ALSO
SR. ARCADIO ORTA DID NOT HAVE A COPY OF AM'S SECURITY
PROGRAM, BUT DID KNOW THAT SCREENING MUST BE CONDUCTED
ON INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS.

ON MAY 28, 1977, AT HERMOSILLO, MEXICO, AM WAS OBSERVED

TO BOARD 32 PASSENGERS ON AM FLIGHT 100, HERMOSILLO TO TUCSON, ARIZONA, WITHOUT SECURITY SCREENING. THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH AM STATION MANAGER, M.A. ESTRADA, WHO STATED THAT THE ASSIGNED SECURITY EMPLOYEE DID NOT REPORT FOR WORK THIS DATE AND HE COULD NOT LOCATE THE METAL DETECTOR. THEREFORE, HE ALLOWED THE FLIGHT TO BE BOARDED WITHOUT SCREENING THE PASSENGERS OR THEIR CARRY-ON ITEMS.

ON MAY 30, 1977, AT GUADALAJARA, MEXICO, AM WAS OBSERVED TO BOARD 84 PASSENGERS ON AM FLIGHT 442, GUADALAJARA TO HOUSTON, TEXAS, WITHOUT SECURITY SCREENING. THE MATTER WAS DISCUSSED WITH AM STATION MANAGER, ERNESTO MANGAS, WHO ADVISED THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WHO NORMALLY CONDUCTED THE SCREENING WAS SICK. MR. MANGAS STATED HE WAS AWARE THAT SCREENING SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED BUT, BECAUSE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES PLUS OTHER ALLEGED PROBLEMS, HE DETERMINED NOT TO CONDUCT THE SECURITY SCREENING IN THIS INSTANCE.

THESE FAILURES TO SCREEN ARE NOT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF FEDERAL AVIATION REGULATION (FAR) PART 129, SECTION 129.25(B)(1), AND AM'S SECURITY PROGRAM INFORMATION. ALSO, THE ABOVE INCIDENTS INDICATE THAT WHILE AM PERSONNEL ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF FAR PART 129, THEY MAY NOT FULLY APPRECIATE

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 144227

THE SERIOUSNESS OF VIOLATING THESE REQUIREMENTS NOR THE POTENTIALLY HAZARDOUS SITUATIONS CREATED BY THEIR FAILURE TO CONDUCT SECURITY SCREENING OF PASSENGERS.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED BY JUNE 24, 1977, AS TO WHAT CORRECTIVE MEASURES AM CONTEMPLATES TAKING TO INSURE AGAINST A REPETITION OF THESE OR SIMILAR INCIDENTS. INVESTIGATION OF THESE INCIDENTS WILL IN ANY CASE CONTINUE AND AM WILL BE SEPARATELY NOTIFIED OF THE RESULTS OF THAT ACTION."

2. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE EMBASSY ADVISE THE DGCA MEXICO OF THE CONTENTS OF THE ABOVE QUOTED MESSAGE, EXPRESS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THESE INCIDENTS, AND OUR HOPE THAT IMMEDIATE AND APPROPRIATE CORRECTIVE MEASURES WILL BE TAKEN. VANCE

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